

# Land Quality

## Mission

To protect the public health and the environment by ensuring proper handling and disposal of wastes.

## Summary of Activities

The **Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)** Office of Land Quality focuses on prevention of environmental problems. This is accomplished by thorough review and appropriate permitting of facilities that manage waste materials and through stringent compliance inspections. IDEM also focuses on industrial waste landfills and farming operations involving large numbers of animals.

IDEM issues hazardous waste permits to help ensure safe waste management practices at major industrial facilities that treat, store or dispose of hazardous waste. These permits also function to prevent releases of hazardous chemicals into the environment. IDEM also registers and inspects waste tire transporters, processing facilities, and storage sites.

In addition to permitting and inspection, IDEM oversees short-term and long-term environmental cleanup projects. The Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) provides current and prospective contaminated property owners with a mechanism to clean up the property with IDEM oversight and assistance. There are currently 276 active VRP projects. As a partner with the U.S.

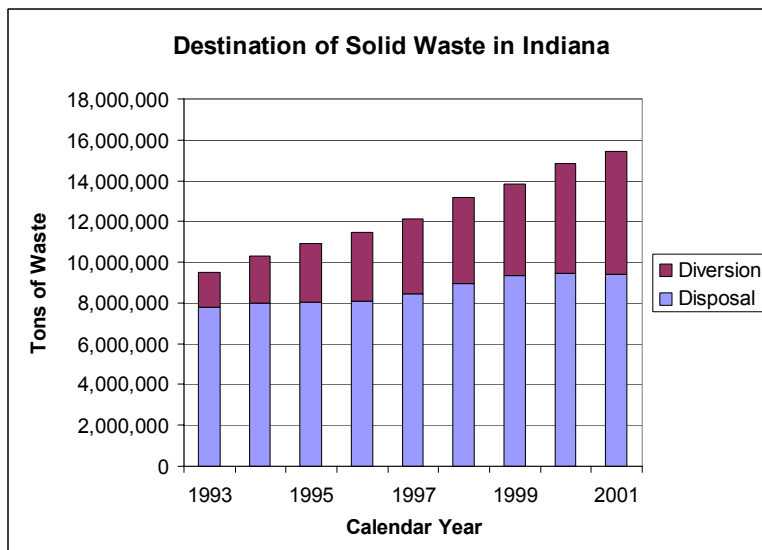
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), IDEM conducts and oversees the cleanup of the most contaminated sites identified by the federal government on their “Superfund” list. The IDEM Site Cleanup Program funds, oversees, and manages the cleanup of sites that do not qualify for the Superfund program.

The IDEM Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) assists the U.S. Department of Defense, in cooperation with the EPA, in the investigation and cleanup of active and closing military bases at which hazardous substances were used, stored or disposed. IDEM also oversees the cleanup of releases from regulated underground storage tanks. The redevelopment of “brownfields” — abandoned or underused industrial or commercial sites where development is complicated by actual or perceived environmental contamination — links economic vitality and jobs with environmental protection. During FY 2003, 42 communities applied to IDEM for assistance remediating and returning brownfields to productive economic reuse.

IDEM emergency response personnel are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to respond to environmental emergencies. When necessary, state funds can be used to control and cleanup oil spills, hazardous material accidents and releases of other objectionable substances.

## External Factors

Indiana covers an area of 36,300 square miles, requiring broad monitoring and enforcement of land quality. Past waste management practices have caused many significant problems that the state must continue to address, including contaminated sites, leaking underground storage tanks, spills, landfills, and open dumps that can contaminate ground water. Thousands of contaminated Indiana properties require remediation. Many are actively under investigation or cleanup, while others are yet to be discovered. Prospective purchasers of brownfields may be reluctant to purchase the property because of concerns about legal liability from potential contamination at the site.



## Evaluation and Accomplishments

As of 2003, there are 36 Superfund sites, including Continental Steel in Kokomo and the Westinghouse/CBS site in Bloomington. Cleanup efforts are under way at 12 Superfund sites, and cleanup responses are complete and are being monitored at 24. To date, approximately 112 Indiana communities have received brownfield funding and /or other assistance for approximately 281 sites to be redeveloped and returned to productive economic reuse. Over the last seven years more than 8 million tires at 70 illegal dumpsites were cleaned up, with an estimated 1,336,836 tires being shredded. At the end of 2002, over 4,400 leaking tank sites have been remediated since 1993.



## Plans for the Biennium

IDEM will continue to issue permits on a timely basis and conduct compliance inspections to ensure waste materials are being managed properly. Inspections will be targeted to give the highest priority to sites which represent the greatest threat to public health. This document will help assure consistency among multiple remediation programs in setting the level of cleanup which must be conducted to ensure protection of human health and the environment.

IDEM will also continue its partnership with the U.S. Department of Defense as that agency permits, constructs, and operates a facility to destroy VX poison nerve gas stored at the Newport Army Chemical Depot. IDEM will continue to assist communities with brownfield redevelopment so that properties may be returned to the tax rolls and productive use. IDEM will continue to assist the agricultural community as the agency implements rules regulating confined animal feeding facilities, which will help prevent the discharge of animal wastes into surface waters.

